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Zur Schärfung des Sprachgefühls. 200 fehlerhafte Sätze mit Verbesserungen geprüft von einem Ausschusse des Allgemeinen Deutschen Sprachvereins. Mit einer einleitenden Abhandlung: Was ist Sprachgefühl? Warum soll es geschärft werden? von Hermann Dunger, Zweite Auflage, Berlin, 1906. Verlag des Allgemeinen Deutschen Sprachvereins. Pp. viii, 137.

This book will doubtless prove interesting and valuable to a large number of teachers and students of German. The ideas on language questions presented in it represent the views of a number of distinguished German scholars. The editor, Mr. Hermann Dunger, collected the materials from the actual literature of the language and submitted them to a number of scholars for endorsement or rejection, and later prepared the results for publication. The treatment is in general broad and scientific and the decisions will for the most part be generally adopted. There is, however, occasionally in the patriotic glow of the editor an excess of zeal which leads him to struggle for immediate definitive forms where a scientific view would promptly suggest that these must be left to the future development of the language. Modern feeling resents tampering of any kind. A wide-awake people cannot afford to leave the making of its language to even its greatest scholars. Such a language would have all the limitations of a few choice but one-sided men, while the natural speech of a great people has an unfailing source of strength and varied beauty. In a number of cases the definitive forms desired by Mr. Dunger will probably come about in due time, but the present forms need not be placed in such an ugly light. Mr. Dunger illustrates often the improper usage in question only by quotations from obscure newspapers, warnings put up in public buildings, patent-medicine advertisements, etc. Some of these tabooed forms, however, have been used by the greatest and most representative Germans, as Goethe, Bismarck, Jakob Grimm, Hermann Paul, Wilhelm Raabe, and many others, and are in fact the lingering survivals of a once common usage. The German language is fortunately in a state of healthy development and

these older forms are being gradually replaced by more serviceable expressions. If, however, such an older form is to be finally dismissed scientific reasons should be advanced and never should it be summarily rejected by the words "hässlich" or "falsch." It might at least be given a certificate of honorable dismissal. Any disregard of the historical element places the whole question in a wrong light. Some of the forms censured by Mr. Dunger are new, but conspicuous writers have employed them and it might be worth while to try to *interpret* the phenomena of our time instead of making war blindly upon all that is new. It is, however, only just to say that Mr. Dunger has assumed an interpretative attitude in a number of interesting cases, so that we are truly sorry that he has not uniformly viewed his facts in a spirit of investigation and with an eager desire to see and learn. "Der Allgemeine Deutsche Sprachverein" should not desire to instil in its members a spirit of blind confidence in its official decrees, but should earnestly endeavor to lead them to study all linguistic phenomena in the light of historical development and to interpret liberally present usage in the light of the growing needs of the present and the future.

The following detailed criticism presents concrete cases of the general objections offered above and moreover discusses a number of minor points treated by Mr. Dunger.

On page iii Mr. Dunger makes the statement that the German people does not study its language with the affectionate care that characterizes other peoples. This statement has often been made by German scholars, but the reviewer regards it as a fiction. He knows no people that studies its literary language and its numerous dialects with as much sacrificing devotion as does the German people. The countless fluctuations in present usage thruout the German-speaking territory of Europe do not indicate a deplorable neglect but rather the wonderful wealth of form in the German language and its present healthy and vigorous development. The Germans are to be congratulated upon the present state of things. May in this formative period their wealth of thought and feeling find a still more complete and accurate formal expression in their plastic language ! We only wish that the scholar may not

succeed in getting more than his share of influence at this important time. We foreigners distrust the language of the German scholar. It is so clumsy and hard to understand that we know nothing harder to comprehend among modern languages. We have, however, great confidence in the power and beauty of the German spirit as reflected in the language of its great literary men and we hope that this form of the language may give the decisive turns to its future development.

On page 11 Mr. Dunger charges South Germans with the common fault of treating separable verbs as inseparable, as in *Ich anerkenne das* instead of *Ich erkenne das an*. Mr. Dunger, like many other German grammarians, is fond of representing evils in present usage as S. G. By glancing at the reviewer's German grammar (hereafter referred to by the contraction *Gram.*), pp. 339-40, it will appear that this usage is also found in the North. Since the publication of his book the reviewer has found a large number of additional examples from all parts of Germany, some of them even from distinguished German scholars and literary men. On this same page Mr. Dunger has also represented as S. G. the use of *sein* in *Ich bin gestanden*. The question is, however, not so simple as represented. This usage was formerly found also in the North and, as can be seen in *Gram.*, pp. 291-2, still lingers there. The whole question is worthy of a historical explanation.

On pp. 15 and 50 Mr. Dunger calls attention to the omission of *worden* in the perfect passive, as in *Gestern ist der Verbrecher verhaftet*. It is represented as N. G. usage principally found in newspapers. In *Gram.*, p. 300(a) examples are given from two scholars, the former of whom is one of the greatest philologists of our time. A usage supported by such authority might be worthy of a little study. In M. H. G. this was the usual form for the perfect passive, but in the present period *worden* has been added to denote an *act*, while the old form is retained to denote a *state*. Thus a beautiful shade of meaning has been acquired which often cannot be expressed in English. This shade is worth preserving and in general is carefully observed, but older usage lingers on and will naturally continue for some time yet. This is not a sign of linguistic slothfulness, but an instructive illustration of the tenacious-

ness of a construction that has been rooted in feeling for centuries. It is interesting to note the tenaciousness of the older form in the perfect passive *infinitive*, where it is probably more common than the new form : Es wird als neuerlicher Amerikanismus bezeichnet . . . sollte es vielleicht von Deutschamerikanern geprägt sein ? (Krüger's *Syntax der englischen Sprache*, p. 139). The new form, however, is naturally employed where it is necessary to the thought : Eine Zeitung kann in einem Bezirk verbreitet worden sein, ohne dort verbreitet zu sein (*Kölnische Zeitung*, 30. Mai 1902).

On pp. 18 and 65 Mr. Dunger condemns the use of the perfect *active* participle of verbs which are conjugated with *haben*, as in *die bereits zur Ruhe sich begebenen* (or *sich begeben habenden*) *Waldsänger*. In *Gram.*, p. 270, examples of both of these forms are given. Many more have been collected in the last three years. Among the sources represented are Goethe, Jakob Grimm, Gutzkow, Bismarck, Storm Jensen, Raabe, Liliencron, Baumbach, Professor Litzmann, and a large number of periodicals and newspapers. The shorter form—*das den Grafen befallene Unglück* (Goethe)—does not seem to be so common now as the longer form—*an die Stelle der sich überlebt habenden historisch-heroischen Tragödie* (Litzmann's *Das deutsche Drama in den literarischen Bewegungen der Gegenwart*, p. 31). The shorter form has become well established in a large number of cases : *abgelebt* (formerly an intransitive conjugated with *haben*) *deceased*, *abgesagt* (ein abgesagter Feind), *gelernt* (ein gelernter Schuhmacher), etc. The Latin has the same difficulties here as German and has also coined perfect passive participles with active meaning : *cēnātus*, *prānsus*, *pōtus*, etc. In German there is a formidable list of such participles formed from reflexive verbs : *ausgeschlafen*, *bedacht*, *beflissen*, *bemüht*, *bescheiden*, *bestrebt*, *betrunken*, *eingebildet*, *entschlossen*, *erfahren*, *erkältet*, *überlebt* (ein überlebter Brauch), *verbissen*, *verkrochen* (ein verkrochenes Wiesenblümchen), *verirrt*, etc. These formations have resulted from two tendencies which at first operated with united strength—the desire to bring out clearly the force of the perfect active and the general fondness for the attributive form of statement which is also noticeable elsewhere. In a large number of these words the

attributive force has become more prominent than the verbal, so that the forms have now merely the force of adjectives. Grammarians now generally recommend the use of only the words with adjective meaning, but the two original tendencies described above manifest themselves still and produce formations with the force of both a verb and an adjective. If "Der Allgemeine Deutsche Sprachverein" deems it best to suppress the employment of such participles it might at least call attention to the honorable past of the construction and its many survivals in present usage. Mr. Dunger disposes of the long form very tersely: "Für teilgenommene Truppen müßte es heißen teilgenommen habende Truppen, eine Form, die nicht zulässig ist." It is to be regretted that this valuable book is disfigured by such unscientific and misleading utterances. This long form is comparatively new, but it is not at all infrequent in the best speakers and writers. Some dispose of it by simply remarking that it does not belong to the living language, but is a "proper" word, *i. e.*, occurs only in the written literature. Bismarck, however, who is regarded by these same grammarians as a great natural orator, employs it in his speeches. It seems after all rooted in the desire to give more emphasis to the *verbal* idea. The simple participle, as in the many formations given above, is felt as an adjective, and hence to impart verbal force to the participle is given the form of the perfect tense of the verb to which adjective case-endings are added. If it is desired to suppress also the long form cogent reasons should be advanced. At least its use by prominent authors and speakers ought to be explained. It is interesting to note that the long form is absolutely impossible in English. At first thought it seems strange, for English is very fond of the terse perfect participle, as in *Having finished my work I went home* = *As I had finished my work I went home*, or *After I had finished my work I went home*. The English prefers here the participle, altho it is frequently somewhat unclear, while the German usually employs the full clause to bring out clearly the adverbial element of *time* or *cause*. The English uses this participle so much to express the adverbial relations that it cannot be employed to denote the adjective relation. This could only be done if the participle might precede the noun, but this word-

order is quite foreign to the English idiom. As this word-order is in German quite common here, German has at this point a natural advantage over English. Another formal difficulty often prevents the use of the short form in English. It could in accordance with the English word-order often only follow the noun, but this is usually impossible in case of weak verbs, for it would be taken for a past indicative. Hence it cannot often be used even where the attributive form is common in German : ein auf den Baum gestiegener Knabe, *a boy who had climbed up the tree*, not *a boy climbed up the tree*.

On page 72 Mr. Dunger censures the use of the inseparable form of *durchkos'ten* in the following sentence : "Im groszen und ganzen ist das geist = und gedankentiefe Buch jedem denkenden Leser, der das Leben durchkos'tet hat, nur bestens zu empfehlen." He doubts whether the inseparable form is used at all. He might, however, before printing his book have taken the trouble to look up the point in the dictionary, where he could easily have seen that this form is employed by good authors. In his commentary upon this word Mr. Dunger says that the separate compounds with *durch-* indicate thoroness, while inseparables give expression to the idea of superficiality, lack of thoroness, hence the inseparable is out of place in this sentence, for the context evidently points to the idea of thoroness. Mr. Dunger has forgotten the passage in "Iphigenie" where Thvas says : "Dann geht, durchsucht das Ufer scharf !" Surely the king does not desire Arkas to do this important work carelessly. Moreover, Gutzkow in his "Zaub.", 2, 158, uses this same verbal form which Mr. Dunger criticizes, and the context clearly shows that the verbal action is thoro : "Den Wein vorher gründlichst durchkostet und kennerhaft geprüft." The reviewer embraces this opportunity to try to outline the meaning of *durch-* in compound words more accurately than Mr. Dunger has done.

When the separable compound is intransitive and the inseparable is transitive the former often denotes haste, lack of thoro verbal activity, while the latter indicates thoroness : "Er reiste durch" *He traveled right thru*, but "Er durchreiste die Gegend" *He traveled all over that part of the country*. "Er ist durch das Dickicht durchgedrungen," but "Das Öl hat das

Holz durchdrungen." On the other hand, the separable verb often, especially when both forms are transitive, emphasizes the idea of completeness or thoroughness, while the inseparable form calls attention to the activity itself or some attendant circumstance. Thus to indicate completeness we say: "Ich tanzte die Nacht durch," but "Ich durchtanzte die Nacht" to indicate the *manner* in which the night was spent. To denote thoroughness we say "durch'gebackenes Brot," but "mit Rosinen durchback'enes Brot" to indicate an attendant circumstance. "Die Frage musz erst noch durchgesprochen werden." *The question must first be thoroly discussed*, but "Diese Frage musz durchsproch'en werden" *We must discuss this question orally* (not by letter.). Of course the form is inseparable if one activity is compared with another: "Er hat es mehr durchstürmt' als durchle'sen." Here belongs the sentence quoted above from Gutzkow. Also the sentence criticized by Mr. Dunger comes under this head. The author of the sentence in question did not mean to say that the book was only to be recommended to those who had tasted of *all* the experiences of life, but that it would be enjoyed by those who had *tasted* of real life in contrast to those who had only *dreamed* about life. There is thus a contrast present in the language and in the thought of the author. The reviewer is a foreigner, but he is real sure of his point. Even tho Mr. Dunger and other distinguished scholars have condemned this sentence it is not necessarily wrong, for other distinguished Germans have employed the same form. Mr. Dunger might have sought to *interpret* the thought of the author. It would be a great pity if "Der Allgemeine Deutsche Sprachverein" should proceed vigorously in this same autocratic way in the future and try to ride down the natural feeling of men and then attempt to establish in its stead the ironclad decrees of a few scholars. It would then soon forfeit the confidence of the public and consequently lose a great opportunity for useful service.

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